

Breakout Session Report

Flood Control and Drought Planning and Mitigation

This session included presentations of the US experience and state of the art concerning flood control/water management, flood forecasting systems, regional climate hydrology modeling systems, flood preparedness and response, flood plan zoning and insurance, drought mitigation and response, and the use of roller compacted concrete as a construction material for new flood control projects and strengthening/preparing existing projects. The Chinese delegation presented their experiences with torrential rain flooding and countermeasures in China, the 1998 Yangtze flood and harnessing the Yangtze River, flood forecasting for the Yellow River, and the shortage and sustainable utilization of water resources in China. From these presentations both sides gained a better understanding of flood control and drought problems and management in both countries.

Useful and productive discussions took place between technical experts on both sides concerning the above topics. These discussions included identifying areas of possible cooperation. These areas are:

- ✳ Training Chinese professionals in: management of flood detention areas; river basin management, water transfers, and water management policies.
- ✳ US experts providing consultant services working with Chinese counterparts on a study of water shortages in the North and drying of the Yellow River.
- ✳ Cooperation in the development of a state-of-the-art flood control dispatch system. This system would have four components: flood information collection system; computer network for flood information transmission; communication system; data and information processing; and, flood and drought prediction.
- ✳ Use of roller compacted concrete for flood control structures. The US is interested in cooperating with any country on this subject, including China.

The Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) already has an agreement with the Tennessee Valley Authority on river basin management and will continue cooperation on that subject under the agreement. The MWR and the Corps of Engineers met on April 20 to discuss training for management of flood detention areas. It was discovered that conditions in the detention areas are quite different in each country. China's detention areas are quite populated while those in the US are not. Therefore, there may be little for China to learn from the US in this area.

In a follow-on discussion between session chairs it was decided to move forward and propose the training course on water management policy and that single points of contact from each country should coordinate arrangements and participation. The course would possibly be held in the Spring of 2000 in the Washington, DC area at the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. The course will cover the history and development of water policy in the US, and how projects are conceived, planned, evaluated, authorized, financed and maintained. The MWR will provide a list of additional topics for training. Approvals to provide the training will be sought from both countries. Several agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation, NOAA, FEMA and others would be involved depending on the topics selected by MWR.